

EXTENDED EXPLANATION TO ACCOMPANY
RECONNAISSANCE GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE HARRAT TUFFIL QUADRANGLE,
SHEET 20/39 B, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

ABSTRACT

The Harrat Tuffil quadrangle, sheet 20/39 B, is located between lat 20°30' and 21°00' N, long 39°30' and 40°00' E, about 50 km southeast of Jiddah. A western belt of Proterozoic metapelites and related rocks, defined as the Sa'diyah formation, structurally underlies and locally is interlayered with Proterozoic metabasaltic rocks of the Shumaysi formation to the east. The Sa'diyah formation and the metabasaltic rocks are tentatively correlated with the Sabya formation and Baish group. These rocks may represent a miogeosynclinal tectonic setting in the 800 to 850 Ma period of development of the southwestern Arabian Shield. The presence of aluminous metasediments suggests a continental source area, probably west of oceanic and (or) immature island-arc rocks of the Baish(?) igneous suite.

The Sa'diyah formation and metabasaltic rocks are intruded by a granite gneiss batholith, probably about 600 Ma old, and by small plutons of granodiorite and syenogranite. Peraluminous monzogranite occurs within the western part of the Sa'diyah formation belt and may provide an alternate source for the aluminous pelitic rocks.

Tentative correlation of an isolated exposure of Jurassic(?) dolomite with the Hanifa Formation significantly extends the areal range of possible Jurassic sedimentary rocks in the Tihamat province.

An intense dike swarm intrudes all of the pre-Miocene rocks in the quadrangle. This Damm dike complex is named for Wadi al Damm. Dike chemistry shows both subalkaline and alkaline bimodal suites. The Sita formation is broadly coveal with the Damm dike complex and contains volcanic rocks with similar bimodal chemistry. The Sita formation conformably overlies and is locally interbedded with the Shumaysi formation, which is polygenetically dated in the Makah quadrangle as Eocene (~50 Ma). Potassium-argon dating indicates intrusion and volcanism over the period ~50 Ma to ~20 Ma ago. The Tertiary volcanic and plutonic rocks are dated by the K-Ar method. A hypabyssal, and plutonic rocks are all light rare-earth element enriched as would be expected in a rift-related tectonic setting. These rocks represent proto-Red Sea igneous activity and are correlated with the Jizan group. Shama rhyolite near Harrat Tuffil is unconformably overlain by a boulder conglomerate correlated with the Batham formation.

Miocene alkali basalt forms a large paleovalley-fill lava flow at Harrat ad Dam and small fountains of Wadi al Damm. Erosional downcutting at Harrat ad Dam averaged ~10 m per Ma over the past 11 Ma. Pliocene alkali basalt unconformably overlies Batham formation and Shama rhyolite at Harrat Tuffil.

The uplift of Quaternary reef limestone along the Red Sea coast indicates recent faulting as shown in the adjoining Shu'ayba and Al Ghalah quadrangles.

A perlitic deposit at Jabal Shama may be suitable as light aggregate for concrete. Sparre barite veins were discovered in the lower Shumaysi formation. Relatively small deposits of Sa'diyah formation marble may be of interest for local use in building or cement. The Jurassic dolomite is locally quite pure and may have economic applications.

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Plutonic rocks are classified according to the recommendations of the International Union of Geological Sciences (Streckeisen, 1973). Volcanic rocks are classified according to the method of Irvine and Baragar (1971). Varietal minerals and phenocrysts are listed in order of increasing abundance. The following abbreviations are used: K-Ar, potassium-argon; Rb-Sr, rubidium-strontium; REE, rare-earth element; LREE, light rare-earth element; XRD, X-ray diffraction. Potassium-argon dates are from Pallister (unpublished data) unless otherwise referenced.

SEDIMENTS AND SEDIMENTARY AND METASEDIMENTARY ROCKS

- Qe EOLIAN SAND—Mainly mobile sheet sand and barrier dunes; includes minor alluvially reworked sand in small drainages
- Qal ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS—Unconsolidated sand, silt, and gravel in wadi channels and outwash plains. Older alluvial deposits (Qao) in abandoned channels of Wadi Sa'diyah
- Qs SABKHAH DEPOSITS—Calcareous, gypsiferous, and silty silt, clay, and sandy mud deposited in restricted shallow basins with surfaces just above mean high-tide level; surface characterized by thin salt crusts formed by evaporation of seawater introduced during storm tides and by subsurface seepage through porous sand and reef limestone. Sabkha deposits of two ages mapped: Qs2, modern deposits in basins of active deposition; Qs1, older deposits in basins of inactive deposition at higher topographic levels due to Quaternary uplift. Both deposits partly buried by eolian and alluvial sand
- Qr1 CORAL-REEF LIMESTONE—Submarine reef limestone consisting chiefly of coral and coral debris with calcareous organic material and minor sand; active coral growth
- Qrb BACK-REEF DEPOSIT—Submarine coral-reef limestone and quartz and carbonate sand; deposited behind the active fringing reef in shallow areas of sand deposition and limited coral growth; derived in part from the combined alluvium of Wadi Sa'diyah and Wadi Sa'yah
- Qr2 CORAL-REEF LIMESTONE—Subsuaerial reef limestone terraces, chiefly coral and coral debris; also includes minor beach sand. Probably uplifted by Quaternary faulting as described in the Shu'ayba and Al Ghalah quadrangles (Pallister, unpub. data)
- Qt WADI TERRACE DEPOSITS—Partly eroded, poorly consolidated sand, silt, and gravel; unit forms channel-crossbedded, poorly sorted deposits in major drainages in eastern part of quadrangle. Probably derived from erosion of middle Holocene pluvial cycle (Whitney, 1980). Locally greater than 5 m thick
- Tba BATHAM FORMATION—Coarse, polymictic boulder conglomerate, poorly exposed as an isolated boulder-lag deposit at Harrat Tuffil. The Batham formation unconformably overlies Pliocene alkali olivine basalt dated at 3.25±0.05 Ma and unconformably overlies Shama rhyolite dated at 19.2±0.9 Ma. Contains angular to moderately rounded boulders of Precambrian granite, gneiss, diorite, and amphibolite as well as 2 m across and Tertiary volcanic and hypabyssal rocks of the Shama rhyolite and Sita formation. Produced by first major, rapid uplifts of Red Sea Escarpment during middle or late Miocene (Schmidt and others, in press)
- Ts SHUMAYSI FORMATION—Light-tan to dark-maroon, quartz arenite, hematitic quartz arenite, hematitic claystone, and ironstone containing rare-laid tuff beds in some outcrops near Jabal Sita. Sandstone composed chiefly of angular, strained, and multi-domain quartz grains in a clayey or hematitic matrix; grain size distribution commonly bimodal with peaks at ~0.4 mm and ~0.1 mm diameters; trace-mineral grains chiefly amphibole, zircon, magnetite, and rutile; XRD analysis showing kaolinite and pyrophyllite as major matrix minerals suggests rhyolite ash component. Sandstone west of Jabal abu Shidat is crossbedded, contains zones that are cemented by authigenic quartz, and contains numerous mollusk and worm burrows and molds. Unit underlies and is locally interbedded with volcanic rocks of the Sita formation near Jabal Sita. Unconformably overlies Precambrian rocks of the Baish(?) igneous suite east of Jabal Sita and near Jabal abu Shidat; deformed with Sita formation; locally intruded by basalt and plagioclase megacrystic metabasaltic rocks of the Damm dike swarm east of Jabal Sita. Maximum exposed thickness ~150 m east of Jabal Sita. Unit can be traced discontinuously north into the Makah and Al Jumun quadrangles where fossil and pollen analyses of sandstones from the middle member of the Shumaysi formation define an early Eocene (Cuisian) age (Moltzer and Binda, 1981). Probably correlates with Ayyahay sandstone of the Jizan group (Schmidt and others, 1982)
- Tv DOLOMITE AND DOLOMITIC LIMESTONE—Light to medium-gray, resistant, well-bedded, very fine to fine-grained, dolomitized clastic and bioclastic limestone and minor sand or ferruginous dolomite. Some beds contain abundant but poorly preserved fossil debris. XRD analysis shows yield dolomite/calcite ratios of 98:2. Unconformably overlies Sa'diyah formation amphibolite as a west-southwest dipping, internally undeformed, homoclinal ridge at the single mapped exposure southeast of Harrat Tuffil. Intruded by several, 1- to 2-m-thick, Tertiary(?), primitive tholeiitic sills that are probably cognetic with the Damm dike complex. Tentatively correlated with Jurassic Hanifa Formation as described by Powers and others (1966). No other Jurassic rocks have been reported in the Tihamat province (Red Sea coastal plain) of southwestern Saudi Arabia north of approximately lat 17° N. Minimum thickness approximately 30 m, top not exposed

SA'DIYAH FORMATION

Metasedimentary rocks of the Sa'diyah formation are chiefly para-amphibolite, quartzite, schist, marble, and gneiss. They underlie, but are locally interlayered with, the Baish(?) igneous suite, and probably are the oldest rocks in the quadrangle. They are lithologically similar and are exposed in a similar geologic setting to the Sabya formation and Baish group. The Sa'diyah is tentatively correlated. The reference area for the Sa'diyah is between Harrat Tuffil and Wadi Sa'diyah in the south-eastern part of the quadrangle. Individual reference localities for the three map units are given below. Metasedimentary rocks within the Baish group are assigned oceanic island-arc or eugeo-synclinal depositional environments free of continental detritus (Prinz, 1981), and quartzofeldspathic gneiss within the Baish group was probably derived from trondhjemite protoliths of an immature island-arc tectonic setting (D. Schmidt, oral comm., 1982). These types of quartz-rich rocks and schists are recognized and mapped within the Baish(?) igneous suite, and a few examples are present within the Sa'diyah formation. However, the presence of aluminous clastics (kyanite and andalusite) indicates pelitic protolith for some of the Sa'diyah formation rocks, and the presence of potassium feldspar, muscovite but not paragonite (confirmed by XRD), and trace minerals characteristic of granites indicates a granitic or arkosic (not trondhjemite) source for others. These factors suggest a source of continental material was present during deposition of the Sa'diyah formation. Evidence for continental detritus and interlayering of the Sa'diyah formation and Baish(?) igneous suite suggests that the Sa'diyah was deposited in a mid-oceanic setting. The age of the Sa'diyah formation is not directly known.

sa PARA-AMPHIBOLITE—Dark-gray to black, strongly foliated, fine-grained, epidote-amphibolite, epidote-quartzite, amphibole rocks, generally plagioclase-felsic, porphyroblasts of epidote or blue-green amphibole common. Interlayered with subordinate quartzite, schist, marble, and orthoamphibolite (metabasalt). Possibly derived from amphibolite and/or metabasaltic rocks, argillaceous, siliceous dolomite or limestone protolith. Reference locality: lat 20°39' N, long 39°50' E. Thickness unknown due to possible repetition by folding

sm MARBLE—White to gray, resistant, foliated, fine-grained quartzite and biotite-muscovite-quartz marble and cm- to mm-scale layered amphibole marble. Recumbently folded at outcrop scale. Contains thin, sandy, relict beds apparently parallel to foliation. Probably derived from sandy limestone and interbedded limestone, graywacke, and pelitic rocks. Metamorphosed to amphibolite facies. Structurally overlies and is interlayered near top of Sa'diyah formation. Maximum structural thickness ~250 m at reference locality in southwestern Jabal al Ghandiyah at lat 20°42' N, long 39°49' E.

sq QUARTZITE—White to light-gray; weakly to moderately foliated; granoblastic to schistose; commonly medium to fine grained. Three major rock types identified: 1) andalusite-kyanite-muscovite quartzite, rutile-muscovite-kyanite quartzite, muscovite-kyanite quartzite, and muscovite-quartz schist (metapelites); 2) magnetite quartzite (metachert); and 3) feldspathic (microcline and (or) plagioclase) quartzite or quartzofeldspathic gneiss that contains minor or trace amounts of fluorite, hornblende, allanite, titanite, zircon, garnet, and magnetite and that was probably derived from granitic or arkosic protoliths. An epidote-garnet and magnetite-epidote-amphibole-quartz skarn (xxx), 1 to 3 m thick, is present along the contact of feldspathic quartzite and marble and amphibolite near lat 20°41' N, long 39°44' E. Unit also contains: kaolinite-quartz schist and quartz claystone (derived from muscovite-quartz schist); quartz-kyanite-muscovite-plagioclase schist (metatrondhjemite); biotite-muscovite-quartz-plagioclase schist with relict plagioclase phenocrysts (meta-andesite?); minor quartz-bearing plagioclase-epidote-amphibole-chlorite schist and hornblende-plagioclase amphibolite (metabasalt); and garnet-biotite-granite-gneiss, garnite gneiss, and trondhjemite gneiss. Polymetamorphosed at amphibolite facies; deformed quartz porphyroblasts in some samples indicate multi-phase deformation during metamorphism. Map patterns suggest that unit structurally overlies Sa'diyah para-amphibolite and marble and is underlain but locally interfingers with, the Baish(?) igneous suite. Thickness unknown due to possible repetition by folding and intrusion by granite gneiss to the east. Reference localities near Wadi al Damm, lat 20°42' N, long 39°48' E, and lat 20°41' N, long 39°47' E.

IGNEOUS AND META-IGNEOUS ROCKS

Tb2 AKAALI BASALT (Pliocene)—Medium-gray; fine grained; intergranular; nonvesicular to moderately vesicular; olivine, olivine-plagioclase, and clinopyroxene-olivine-plagioclase porphyritic to microporphyratic. Classified as alkali basalt of the sodic-alkali basalt series of Irvine and Baragar (1971) (fig. 1). Chemically similar to some alkali basalts in Damm dike swarm and with LREE enrichment typical of rift-related magmas (figs. 1, 2). Exposed only as a shield volcano at Harrat Tuffil. Flow features generally obscured by weathering, but poorly preserved flow fronts, channels, and differences in phenocryst type and abundance indicate several flows at Harrat Tuffil. A single flow traveled ~12 km south of the eruptive center, probably along a paleostress channel. Upper flow in vent area dated by whole-rock K-Ar at 3.25±0.05 Ma. Unconformably overlies Batham formation, Shama rhyolite, and Precambrian gneiss and granite. Typically <10 m thick except in vent areas

Tb1 AKAALI BASALT (Miocene)—Medium-gray; fine grained; intergranular to subophitic; locally diktyotaxitic; nonvesicular to moderately vesicular; olivine, olivine-plagioclase, and subordinate clinopyroxene-olivine-plagioclase porphyritic to microporphyratic. Classified as alkali basalt of the sodic-alkali basalt series of Irvine and Baragar (1971) (fig. 1). Olivine commonly inverted to smectite and (or) serpentine, and limited unaltered of pyroxene and hornblende, saussurization of plagioclase, and chloritization of biotite. Unit forms small plutons and 10- to 100-m-thick northwesterly trending dikes with resistant, recrystallized host-rock margins producing dual-rb or "railroad-track" weathering patterns, producing prominent aeromagnetic lineaments. Dikes crosscut Damm dike swarm and are overlain by Miocene alkali basalt at Harrat ad Dam dated by K-Ar at 11.3±0.6 Ma. Similar dike in the Al Lith quadrangle to the southeast dated by plagioclase K-Ar at 21.7±0.5 Ma and clinopyroxene K-Ar at 24.4±2 Ma; however, whole-rock K-Ar dates are anomalously old (100-200 Ma) due to contamination by excess radiogenic argon from Precambrian host rocks (Pallister, unpublished data). Small plutons near Jabal Sita dated by whole-rock K-Ar at 26.7±4.6 Ma (Gettings and Stoesser, 1981)

Shama RHYOLITE—Light-gray, white to tan or pink, or where perlitic, black to green rhyolite and dacite; flow banded and flow folded; spherulitic, vitroclastic, locally extantitic or blebbed; fine grained; contains sparse phenocrysts of quartz, quartz and plagioclase, or quartz, plagioclase, and sanidine; chemically classified as rhyolite and dacite (fig. 1 and Laurent, 1976); forms rhyolite and dacite flows, and a small lute and dacite flow rock, welded tuff, and perlitic. Best exposed at reference area at Jabal Shama and at Jabal abu Shidat. Perlitic discontinuously exposed along base of ash flow at Jabal Shama; possibly hydrated basal vitrophyre. Sample from Jabal abu Shidat dated by whole-rock K-Ar at 19.2±0.9 Ma (Gettings and Stoesser, 1981). Unconformably overlies and intrudes Baish(?) igneous suite and is faulted against Shumaysi formation. Locally intruded by Damm dike swarm, by Batham formation and Pliocene alkali basalt at Harrat Tuffil. Probably correlates with Liyyah rhyolite of the Jizan group of Schmidt and others (in press)

SITA FORMATION—Two bimodal suites of 1) alkali basalt and trachyte and 2) minor subalkaline basalt and rhyolite (figs. 1, 3). Alkali basalt is dark gray to greenish gray; fine grained; moderately to severely altered (chloritic or zeolitic); vesicular or amygdaloidal; allopilitic to intergranular or subophitic; contains phenocrysts of olivine or olivine and plagioclase. Trachyte is medium to light gray; slightly to moderately altered; aphyritic; contains phenocrysts of hornblende and albite or clinopyroxene and albite. Sub-alkaline basalt has color and alteration similar to the alkali basalt but is fine grained, commonly aphanitic, or contains phenocrysts or microphenocrysts of plagioclase and clinopyroxene. Rhyolite is light gray, fine grained, and contains sparse feldspar phenocrysts; very minor component of formation and may correlate with

Shama rhyolite. Each rock type forms lava flows interbedded with reddish-gray to purple volcanoclastic rocks (tuff-breccia and water-laid tuff), graywacke, laminated limestone, and shale. Formation best exposed south and east of Jabal Sita. Lower, predominantly clastic and volcanoclastic part of section conformably overlies and is locally interbedded with Shumaysi formation south of Jabal Sita; unconformably overlain by Miocene alkali basalt north of Jabal Sita, intrusively and/or co-genetic, subvertical, locally sheeted, north- to north-west-trending, aegirine(?)-plagioclase porphyritic trachyte to mugearite(?) dikes and by plagioclase-megacrystic metabasaltic rocks of the Damm dike complex. Whole-rock sample of trachyte(?) dated by K-Ar at 21.1±2.1 Ma (Gettings and Stoesser, 1981). Water-laid tuff and limestone probably correlate with Baish formation of the Jizan group of Schmidt and others (1982). Top eroded but thickness probably locally exceeds 300 m

DAMM DIKE COMPLEX

Chiefly hypabyssal rocks intruded in parallel to subparallel dike swarms (Damm dike swarm member) and in dikes, sills, and after Wadi ad Damm in the northeastern and central parts of the quadrangle.

Damm DIKE SWARM MEMBER—Two bimodal suites of 1) alkali basalt and 2) trachyte and rhyolite (figs. 1, 3). Tholeiitic basalt to dacite and rhyolite (figs. 1, 3). Alkali basalt and hawaita are dark gray to gray, intergranular to subophitic or ophitic (diabasic), fine grained, and contain plagioclase megacrysts. Comendite is light-gray, fine to medium-grained, quartz-sandine-albite granophyre with arfvedsonite(?) phenocrysts. Trachyte is gray, fine grained, and contains phenocrysts in a felted (trachytic) albite-rich groundmass. Tholeiitic basalt is similar in appearance to alkali basalt and hawaita, but is commonly finer grained and contains phenocrysts or microphenocrysts of olivine, plagioclase, or clinopyroxene, or clinopyroxene and plagioclase. Dikes average 1 to 2 m wide, are more abundant inward from the margins of the swarm, and locally form a sheeted dike complex (100 percent dike rock); dikes typically parallel to sub-parallel and vertical to subvertical. Metamorphic and locally common; sparse cross-cutting dikes occur and tend to follow regional northeast-trending structural patterns. Both alkaline and subalkaline dikes appear to be coveal because they intrude one another. Most dikes are in a north- to northeast-trending swarm that follows the western boundary of the granite gneiss from Wadi ad Damm north through Jabal al Ghandiyah, or in a separate northwesterly trending swarm in the Jabal Sita area. Dike swarms predates: Miocene alkali basalt at Harrat ad Dam dated at 11.3±0.6 Ma; large, northwesterly trending gabro to monzogabro dikes dated at 21.7±0.5 Ma and 24.4±2 Ma; and small gabro plutons near Jabal Sita dated at 26.7±4.6 Ma (Gettings and Stoesser, 1981). Most dikes <50 percent of the swarm predate Burghatnah diorite dated by hornblende K-Ar at 26.8±0.4 Ma, 27.8±0.9 Ma, and 27.2±0.4 Ma, but some dikes (<10 percent) intrude the diorite; plagioclase separated from plagioclase-megacrystic hawaita dated by K-Ar at 43.5±0.7 Ma and the Eocene (~50 Ma) Shumaysi sandstone unconformably overlies some dikes but is intruded by sparse plagioclase-megacrystic dikes southeast of Jabal Sita; the latest dike probably intruded during a period of regional tension from ~50 Ma to ~20 Ma. Dike-swarm member probably represents conduits for volcanic rocks of the Sita formation that are correlated with formations of the Jizan group of Schmidt and others (1982)

Baish(?) IGNEOUS SUITE

Metabasaltic rocks of the Baish(?) igneous suite consist of orthoamphibolite and hornblende hornfels, and quartzofeldspathic gneiss and schist. The former represent cognetic metadiabase, metabasalt, and metagabbro; the latter represent metatonalite or metatrondhjemite. Rocks of this suite structurally overlie but are locally interlayered with the Sa'diyah formation. Quartzofeldspathic gneiss and schist are derived from trondhjemite and tonalite (fig. 4). Metabasalt, metadiabase, and metagabbro are chemically tholeiitic to calc-alkaline and contain REE patterns of LREE depletions typical of mid-oceanic ridge or immature island-arc basalt (fig. 2). Felsic metavolcanic rocks are not present in the quadrangle, although dacitic (fig. 1) rocks occur in the Baish group of Al Lith quadrangle to the southeast. Intermediate position andesites are not present, indicating bimodal Baish(?) chemistry. Baish(?) metabasalts are tholeiitic and similar to ocean-floor basalts in terms of minor and trace-element chemistry and similar conclusions are drawn from REE patterns (fig. 1982). Metavolcanic rocks that apparently overlie the Baish(?) amphibolite in the adjacent Wadi Sa'diyah quadrangle are dated by Rb-Sr at 821±19 Ma (Kröner and others, 1982). Brown, magmatic hornblende from quartz diorite in the northeastern part of the quadrangle is dated by K-Ar at 804±8 Ma. Metamorphic amphibolite from metagabbro and metatrondhjemite yield recrystallization ages of 672±10 Ma and 678±7 Ma. A three-point isochron for Baish(?) metabasalt from the Al Lith quadrangle of Hadley and Fleck (1979) yielded a date of 1165±10 Ma. Hornblende from a diorite dated by Rb-Sr/86Sr was less than 0.12 and the date is equivocal. The suite is clearly older than 804±8 Ma; it is probably between 800 and 880 Ma old (Reischmann and others, 1982). The suite is tentatively correlated with the lithologically and chemically similar Baish group (Prinz, in press; Fleck and others, 1979) which is also intruded by tonalite and diorite dated at 859±73 Ma and 853±72 Ma (Fleck and others, 1980) and by tonalitic gneiss of the An Ninas batholith dated by the zircon uranium-lead (U-Pb) method at 816±4 Ma (Cooper and others, 1979).

ba METADIABASE AND METABASALT—Very dark gray to gray, massive to schistose, fine- to medium-grained, amphibolite, epidote-amphibolite, quartz, amphibolite, or hornblende hornfels; derived chiefly from oceanic or sub-basaltic protoliths; also minor metatonalite and metagabbro. Metamorphosed to lower to upper amphibolite facies; multiply deformed. Structurally overlies Sa'diyah formation and para-amphibolite; intruded by Sa'diyah quartzite and para-amphibolite; intruded by metagabbro and by metatonalite (quartzofeldspathic gneiss unit). Structural thickness probably exceeds 3 km

bg METAGABRO—Dark-gray to gray, massive to foliated, hypidiomorpho-granular to granoblastic, fine- to medium-grained, variably recrystallized and locally mylonitic or gneissic hornfels derived from hornblende, clinopyroxene-hornblende or orthopyroxene-clinopyroxene-hornblende olivine gabro, hornblende tonalite, and biotite monzogabro. Fresh except for slight alteration of olivine to smectite and (or) serpentine, and limited unaltered of pyroxene and hornblende, saussurization of plagioclase, and chloritization of biotite. Unit forms small plutons and 10- to 100-m-thick northwesterly trending dikes with resistant, recrystallized host-rock margins producing dual-rb or "railroad-track" weathering patterns, producing prominent aeromagnetic lineaments. Dikes crosscut Damm dike swarm and are overlain by Miocene alkali basalt at Harrat ad Dam dated by K-Ar at 11.3±0.6 Ma. Similar dike in the Al Lith quadrangle to the southeast dated by plagioclase K-Ar at 21.7±0.5 Ma and clinopyroxene K-Ar at 24.4±2 Ma; however, whole-rock K-Ar dates are anomalously old (100-200 Ma) due to contamination by excess radiogenic argon from Precambrian host rocks (Pallister, unpublished data). Small plutons near Jabal Sita dated by whole-rock K-Ar at 26.7±4.6 Ma (Gettings and Stoesser, 1981)

BURGHATNAH DIORITE—Gray, medium-grained, hypidiomorpho-granular, biotite-hornblende-hornblende and hornblende quartz diorite, biotite-hornblende diorite, and biotite-hornblende monzodiorite. Shows limited saussurization of plagioclase and alteration of mafic minerals to chlorite or smectite. Chemically equivalent to hornblende diorite, but biotite and amphibole (fig. 2) suggests diorite is crystal accumulation produced by fractionation of rhyolite that forms dikes in the Damm dike swarm and flows in the Shama and Sita formations. Intrudes most (>90 percent) dikes of Damm dike swarm but is intruded by trachyte and rhyolite of the Baish(?) igneous suite. Dike swarm but is intruded by trachyte and rhyolite of the Baish(?) igneous suite. Dike swarm but is intruded by trachyte and rhyolite of the Baish(?) igneous suite.

bag METADIABASE-METABASALT AND METAGABRO COMPLEX—Intrusive complex consisting of rocks of metadiabase and metabasalt unit intimately intruded by and deformed with rocks of metagabbro unit. Contains Precambrian metadiabase dike swarm in the northeast; folded on a regional scale adjacent to Bir ad Damm fault, perhaps during emplacement of granite gneiss

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

Perlitic at Jabal Shama (MODS01166) was described by Laurent (1976), who concluded that the reserves of 105,000 tons and possible reserves of 1 million tons exist. The perlitic has relatively low expansion coefficients (2.8 to 5.6), but could be suitable as light aggregate in the manufacture of plaster or lightweight concrete.

Sparse barite veins (MODS03065) were discovered in the lower Shumaysi formation near Jabal Sita. These deposits may have been derived from brines produced during proto-Red Sea rifting 50 to 20 Ma ago.

A small skarn, 1 to 3 m thick, is present along the contact of feldspathic quartzite and marble near lat 20°41' N, long 39°47' E; however, no economic mineralization was noted and pyrite-quartzites in the same area are also very poor in metals of economic interest.

Relatively small deposits of the Sa'diyah formation marble (MODS03066) have been found at the surface, but are of interest for local use as building stone or for cement. The Jurassic(?) dolomite is locally quite pure and may be useful locally.

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Little is known about the ground water resources of the region. Wells in Wadi ad Damm, Wadi al Kargah, and Wadi Sa'diyah produce water for local consumption. It is possible that ground water is trapped in fault basins or paleochannels in the coastal plain, such as near Harrat Tuffil.

ENTRY INTO MINERAL OCCURRENCE DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM (MODS)

Mineral localities referred to in this report are recorded in the Mineral Occurrence Documentation System (MODS) data bank and are identified by a unique five-digit number. Inquiries regarding this data bank may be made through the Office of the Technical Advisor, Saudi Arabian Deputy Ministry for Mineral Resources, Jiddah.

The Jabal Shama perlitic MODS entry was updated and the Shumaysi barite and Jurassic(?) dolomite deposits have been entered in the data bank to Mini-MODS standards as files 03065 and 03066, respectively.

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Note: Tgb and Tds are shown in red on geologic map (plate 1). K-Ar dates calculated using the following decay constants: $\lambda_1 = 0.5811 \times 10^{-10} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, $\lambda_2 = 4.962 \times 10^{-10} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, $\lambda_3 = 0.01167 \text{ atom \%}$. Dates reported by Gettings and Stoesser (1981) are recalculated to these constants.

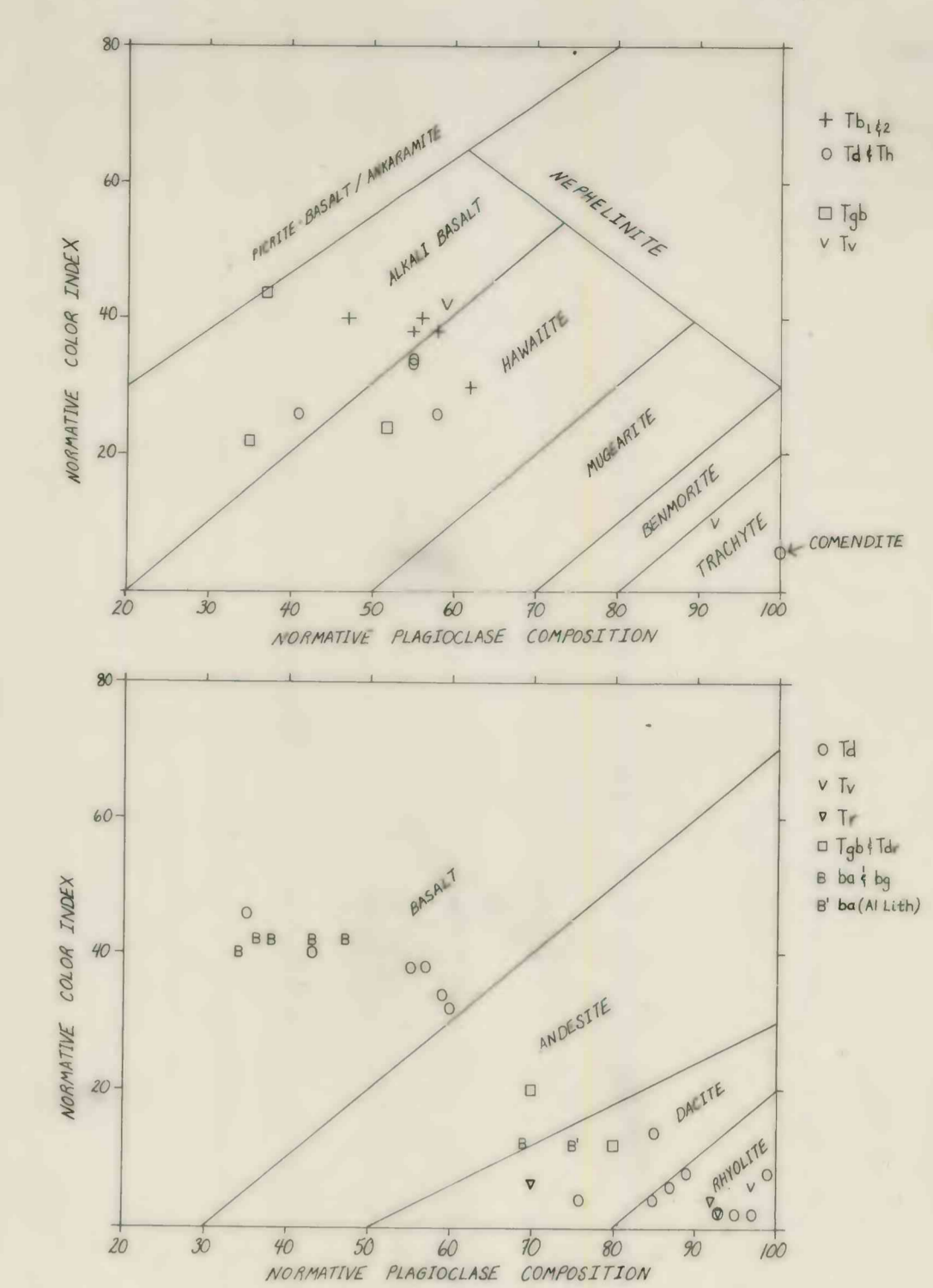


Figure 1.—Volcanic classification diagrams of Irvine and Baragar (1971) showing distribution of rocks of the Harrat Tuffil quadrangle and one rock from the adjacent Al Lith quadrangle (point 1e). The upper diagram shows rocks classified as members of the Sabya formation and Baish group. The lower diagram shows sub-alkaline rocks. Normative plagioclase is defined as 100 x [(ab + 5/3 ne)/(an + ab + 5/3 ne)]; normative color index is defined as 100 x [(ab + 5/3 ne)/(an + ab + 5/3 ne